

Development and Implementation of Salmon Stock of Concern in Alaska

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James J. Hasbrouck
Division of Sport Fish

William D. Templin
Division of Commercial Fisheries

Andrew R. Munro
Division of Commercial Fisheries



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Objectives of Presentation

- Policy framework for salmon stock of concern
- Stock of concern levels and definitions
- Processes and responsibilities
- Review stock of concern designations
- What Was Learned & Improvements

Policies and Regulations Provide for Sustained Yield

- Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries (SSFP; 5 AAC 39.222)
- Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals (EGP; 5 AAC 39.223)
- Salmon Management Plans

Policy Framework under the SSFP

- Roles & Responsibilities – ADF&G, Board
- Stock of Concern Levels
- Action Plan – regulatory, management, research, habitat

Yield Concern

Chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain expected yields, or harvestable surpluses, above a stock's escapement needs

Management Concern

Chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a stock within the bounds of the SEG, BEG, or OEG, or other specified management objective

Conservation Concern

Chronic inability, despite use of specific management measures, to maintain escapements for a stock above a Sustained Escapement Threshold (SET)

Chronic Inability

Continuing or anticipated inability to meet escapement thresholds over a four to five year period

Stock of Concern Process

Regional/Area Management and Research staff

- Review recent escapements against goals
- Recommend SOC according to 5 AAC 39.222



Review & approval by Regional Supervisors and Directors



Recommendations presented to Board of Fisheries

- Board may request ADF&G draft Action Plan



Potential action(s) at Board regulatory meeting & subsequent review of stock status

History of Stocks of Concern

➤ Since SSFP initiated in 2000

- 36 stock of concern designations
- No stock ever designated conservation concern
- 6 removed after 3 years, 6 removed after 6 years, 5 removed after 9 years

➤ Currently

- 13 stocks of concern
- 1 on-going since 2000
- 11 designated since 2011 (9 are king)

Current Stocks of Concern

➤ **AYK (n = 63)**

Yukon River	2000	king	Yield
Norton Sound Sub-Districts 5,6	2004	king	Yield

➤ **Westward (n = 50)**

Karluk River	2011	king	Mgmnt
Ayakulik River	2020	king	Mgmnt

➤ **Central (n = 119)**

Chuitna River	2011	king	Mgmnt
Theodore River	2011	king	Mgmnt
Alexander Creek	2011	king	Mgmnt
McNeil River	2016	chum	Mgmnt
East Susitna River	2020	king	Mgmnt

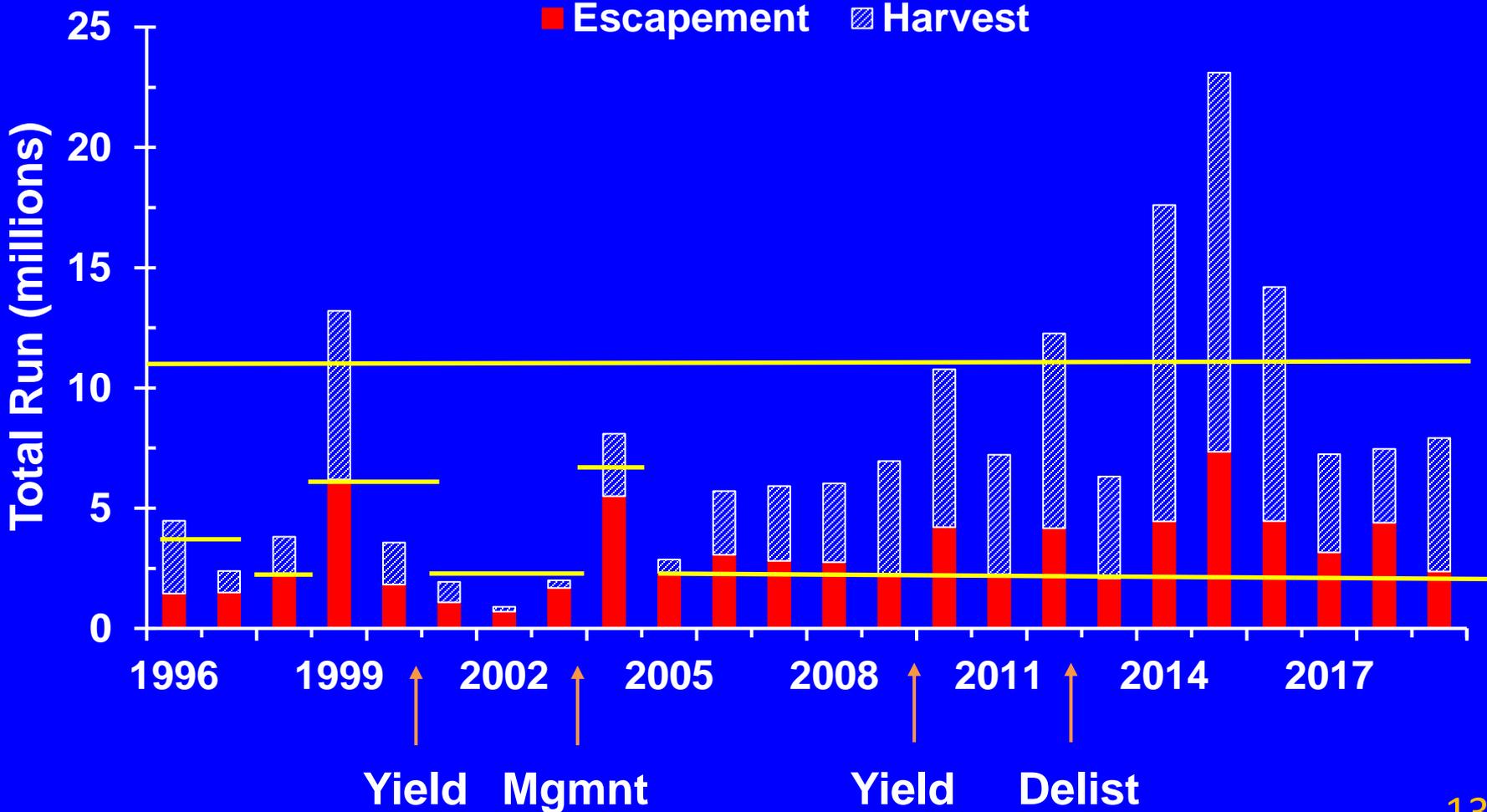
➤ **Southeast (n = 47)**

Chilkat River	2018	king	Mgmnt
King Salmon River	2018	king	Mgmnt
Unuk River	2018	king	Mgmnt
McDonald Lake	2018	sockeye	Mgmnt

What Was Learned

- Management Concern – criteria straightforward
- Yield Concern – criteria more subjective
- Improved justification & documentation over time

Kvichak River sockeye salmon



What Has Changed

- Action Plans document conditions to delist
- Clearly document regulatory, management, research & habitat actions taken in response to stock of concern designation
- Periodically review & document decisions to retain, change or delist stock of concern designation

Questions??

